

## Characteristics of Organisms

**K-2 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of organisms. (Life Science)**

**K-2.4 Compare individual examples of a particular type of plant or animal to determine that there are differences among individuals.**

**Taxonomy level:** 2.6-A Understand Factual Knowledge

**Previous/Future knowledge:** As with other indicators at this grade level, students will experience their first formal introduction to important science concepts. These concepts will be expanded as the students advance in their science education.

**It is essential for students to** know that even though groups of plants or animals may look the same, there are differences between the individuals.

- For example, in a clover, most have three leaves but some have four or more. Some of the stems may be longer than others and some of the leaves may have more distinct patches of white than others.
- For example, all ladybugs have wings and antenna; however, there may be differences in the colors of or the number of spots on their bodies. Another example is when a cat has kittens or a dog has puppies, there are size and color differences among the offspring.

**It is not essential for students to** go beyond this level of knowledge at this time.

### **Assessment Guidelines:**

The objective of this indicator is to *compare* individual plants or animals; therefore, the primary focus of assessment should be to detect differences within a group of the same type of plant or animal. However, appropriate assessments should also require students to *match* two or more plants or animals of the same type and describe the differences they see; or *compare* individual plants or animals to detect similarities.